

**TOPIC: APPROVAL OF SCIENCE TEACHER PREPARATION
PROGRAM AT UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER**

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I. SUMMARY

This action item requests initial approval for the University of Colorado Denver to offer a Science (8.17) teacher endorsement. This initial teacher endorsement will be offered with the B.A. Individually Structured major for 138 credits. The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) previously granted a credit waiver of up to 138 credits for science teacher preparation programs.

II. BACKGROUND

Pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-121, the CCHE determines approval of all teacher preparation programs at public and private institutions of higher education, upon receiving an affirmative recommendation from the State Board of Education. The process for reviewing and approving proposed teacher preparation programs is as follows: The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) conducts a review of the proposed programs to ensure that the content of each program is designed and implemented in a manner that will enable a teacher candidate to meet the requirements for teacher licensure in Colorado (C.R.S. §22-60.5). CDE then makes a recommendation to the State Board of Education, which then makes a recommendation to the Department of Higher Education (DHE). Upon receiving an affirmative recommendation, DHE reviews the program proposals for the following statutory performance criteria: admission system; screening and counseling of teacher candidates; integration of theory and practice in coursework and field based training; supervised field based experience (at least 800 hours); and assessment of candidates' subject matter and professional knowledge and ability to apply the professional knowledge base (C.R.S. §23-1-121.2). In the case of private institutions, the DHE will review the proposal only for supervised field based experience (C.R.S. §23-1-121.5).

III. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL

At its meeting on October 6, 2010, the Colorado State Board of Education approved the content of this proposal. CDE staff transmitted its affirmative recommendations to the DHE.

IV. DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION REVIEW

Pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-121, the Department of Higher Education confirmed that the proposals meet all statutory performance measures.

V. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission approve the Science (8.17) endorsement teacher preparation program at University of Colorado Denver.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Copies of all relevant statute, policy, and the letter of approval from the State Board of Education are on file in the Academic Affairs Office.

VII. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

§22-60.5 C.R.S.

§23-1-121 C.R.S.